



# THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, AMERICAN SECTION.

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## FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

HELD AT

*Boston, Mass., April 26 and 27, 1891.*

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## REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

### FIRST DAY, MORNING SESSION.

The Convention assembled in Steinert Hall, Boston, Mass., at 10 A. M. on April 26, 1891.

The General Secretary, William Q. Judge, called the meeting to order, and on motion Mr. Arthur B. Griggs of Boston was made temporary Chairman. The temporary Chairman then read a programme for the adoption of the Convention, and upon motion of Dr. Buck this programme was adopted, subject to such alterations as might become necessary. The General Secretary, Mr. William Q. Judge, then read the list of Branches in the American Section, and the delegates or proxies responded as follows:—

ARYAN T. S.	-	-	by William Q. Judge, <i>president.</i>
KRISHNA T. S.	-	-	" William Q. Judge, <i>proxy.</i>
CHICAGO T. S.	-	-	" William Q. Judge, <i>proxy.</i>
PRANAVA T. S.	-	-	" William Q. Judge, <i>proxy.</i>
ARJUNA T. S.	-	-	" William Q. Judge, <i>proxy.</i>
GOLDEN GATE T. S.	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>president.</i>
ISHWARA T. S.	-	-	" Dr. J. W. B. La Pierre, <i>pres.</i>
BLAVATSKY T. S.	-	-	" J. Guilford White, <i>delegate.</i>

CINCINNATI T. S.	-	-	by Dr. J. D. Buck, <i>delegate</i> .
BOSTON T. S.	-	-	" Arthur B. Griggs, <i>president</i> .
MALDEN T. S.	-	-	" George D. Ayers, <i>delegate</i> .
NIRVANA T. S.	-	-	" Dr. J. W. B. La Pierre, <i>proxy</i> .
PT. LOMA LODGE T. S.	-	-	" Dr. A. Keightley, <i>delegate</i> .
VARUNA T. S.	-	-	" William Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
ISIS T. S.	-	-	" William Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
BRAHMANA T. S.	-	-	" William Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
BROOKLYN T. S.	-	-	" Henry T. Patterson, <i>delegate</i> .
BANDHU T. S.	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>proxy</i> .
EXCELSIOR T. S.	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>proxy</i> .
GAUTAMA T. S.	-	-	" Sidney Thomas, <i>delegate</i> .
KANSAS CITY T. S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
LIGHT T. S.	-	-	" Dr. J. D. Buck, <i>proxy</i> .
AURORA T. S.	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>proxy</i> .
NARADA T. S.	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>proxy</i> .
STOCKTON T. S.	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>proxy</i> .
ORIENTAL CLUB	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>proxy</i> .
UPASANA T. S.	-	-	" Sidney Thomas, <i>proxy</i> .
MUSKEGON T. S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
TRIANGLE T. S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
EUREKA T. S.	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>proxy</i> .
DANA T. S.	-	-	" Dr. J. W. B. La Pierre, <i>proxy</i> .
HERMES COUNCIL T.S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
VYASA T. S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
LOTUS T. S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
SEATTLE T. S. No. 1.	-	-	" E. B. Rambo, <i>proxy</i> .
1ST. T. S. OF JAMESTOWN	-	-	" Rev. H. Frank, <i>delegate</i> .
DIÉ DEUTSCHE THEOS. GESELLSCHAFT	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
SIDDARTHA T. S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
INDRA T. S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
IRON CITY T. S.	-	-	" Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
ANNIE BESANT T. S.	-	-	" Dr. A. P. Buchmann, <i>proxy</i> .
DHYANA T. S.	-	-	" E. A. Rogers, <i>delegate</i> .

Objection was made to the granting of representation to the Dharma T. S., on the ground that it was not clear on the Treasurer's books, but explanation having been made that the amount due had been remitted to the General Secretary's office, Mr. William E. Gates, President of that Branch, was upon motion admitted as its representative to the Convention.

Mr. George D. Ayers then nominated Mr. E. B. Rambo of San

Francisco as permanent Chairman of the Convention, and Mr. Rambo was unanimously elected and took the chair. Mr. Robert Crosbie of Boston was also elected by a unanimous vote the Secretary of the Convention.

The Chairman then announced the presence of Mrs. Annie Besant as special representative of Mme. Blavatsky to the Convention, and also representative of the European Section, and of Dr. Archibald Keightley as representative of the British Section. They were formally received as such, and on motion were declared members of the Convention. The list of Councillors was then read by the General Secretary ; the following responded and were recognized as members of the Convention :

GEN. A. DOUBLEDAY.....	<i>New York</i> , proxy.
ALEX. FULLERTON.....	" personally.
GEO. M. STEARNS.....	<i>Springfield, Mass.</i> , personally.
GEO. E. WRIGHT.....	<i>Chicago</i> , proxy.
DR. J. D. BUCK.....	<i>Cincinnati</i> , personally.
DR. AMMI BROWN.....	<i>Boston</i> , "
WM. THROCKMORTON.....	<i>St. Louis</i> , proxy.
MRS. A. M. WYMAN.....	<i>Milwaukee</i> , "
ALBERT O. ROBINSON.....	<i>N. H.</i> , personally.

The General Secretary then read his annual report and also the Treasurer's report, as follows : —

#### GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

*My Dear Fellow-Workers ;*

As each year we draw closer to the twentieth century the steady work carried on during the whole period since 1875, when this movement was started, begins to tell not only in the ranks of our members but in the effect upon the mind of the people ; and you will rejoice with me over the fact that the twelvemonth since our last Convention shows a larger addition to our rolls of Branches and Membership than any other during the fifteen years of the Society's life.

It has not been a period wholly without anxieties. Both of the honored Founders of the T. S. have undergone the shattered health which follows upon ceaseless toil in any, even the best of causes. Madame Blavatsky has at no time within it been well, and has often been prostrate from acute illness. Col. Olcott was so seriously affected,

even to the verge of threatened paralysis, that he almost determined to carry out his determination announced two years ago to resign the Presidency and retire to the ranks to seek recuperation through entire rest. Most fortunately the warm representations of his Co-Founder and of numberless friends in all parts of the Society induced him to seek relief in a year's vacation from all labor, urged upon him by the General Convention at Adyar in December, 1890, and he accordingly provided for the exercise of the Presidential duties by a Commission, left India for a different climate, and has been seeking renewed strength in other lands. I am truly glad to say that the last news from him states a decided rally, and that we have full reason for the hope that the remaining months of his well-earned rest will refit him for the great work so dear to his heart and so invaluable to the Society.

The expression of its cordial affection for the President was not the only important act of Convention. It had before it the adoption of a revised and amended Constitution, one adapted to the needs disclosed during the growth of the Society, free from petty or useless details, and furnishing practical machinery for practical ends. On every ground it is gratifying to us American Theosophists that the recommendations made by our Executive Committee and presented by our delegate, Bertram Keightley, were accepted; the principle of Sectional Autonomy was explicitly recognized; the danger of conflict or discontent carefully removed. I believe that the Constitution as it now stands gives the most ample room for all local freedom, while conserving the properties which bind each part to the common centre, although I do not say it might not be improved and shortened still more. From the Indian report it also appears that Bertram Keightley was made General Secretary for India, and that he at once began his work by adopting in full all the plans and methods which have been proved in our work in the United States. He has started a *Forum* like ours under the name of *Prasnotara*, a Branch work department, and a correspondence staff. It also appears that of the total income of 11,600 rupees, the American Section sent to Adyar Headquarters 8,321 rupees. Col. Olcott in appointing a commission for the Presidency included me as one of the Board as representing you, and for the same reason I was also made one of the Trustees of the Society's property. This property consists of the 21 acres of land and the many buildings upon it at Adyar, and the books of the great library. The President's report shows that since 1875 there has never in any year been a decline in Branch growth, and the Branches number 241 at the end of 1890; the rate of annual growth being 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The speeches made by Japanese and Ceylonese delegates at the Convention prove that our Society has had great influence everywhere. Mr.

Tokusawa from Japan said that they blessed the work of the Society and the President, since it had revived Buddhism there, and the Ceylon report indicated great results on that Island. In Ceylon two journals have been started, having a circulation greater than any English or other papers there ; 1800 Singhalese ladies have joined the Woman's Education Society, which is a strictly native institution designed to aid in the better education of their women, and is managed by theosophists. They have built a school house and already have many scholars. In addition to this there is regular religious instruction in other schools. This work in Ceylon among Buddhists has its counterpart in India among the Hindus, where Sanscrit schools have been started by our members, while in Europe and America the influence of our work is found in the Christian fold and the ranks of the materialists. We are neither Buddhists nor Hindus, but rather reformers of religion in the East and opponents of materialism in the West. For in Ceylon and Japan our efforts have done much toward uniting the great northern and southern divisions of Buddhism, and the Chief Priests of the twelve sects in Japan met with our President not long ago in a Convention for the purpose of discussing ways and means for union. In India, as we do not exclude any caste, the result is that all castes freely join us and work together. This I have seen there with my own eyes, as several times I stood on the platform of theosophical meetings in company with Brahmins, low caste men, Mussulmans, and Fire Worshippers. From this brief general survey of our work we should not omit our own country and Europe. In the latter, through the efforts of H. P. Blavatsky and her staff of earnest devoted workers, theosophy has compelled attention from the stolid English, so that, whereas a year ago but little was said of it, now such public men as Max Muller admit in print that they are deluged with private letters asking what theosophy is about. Even the Reviews there have taken it up for consideration or abuse. In the United States our movement is known nearly to all. The newspapers and magazines no longer fail to mention it, but use the words theosophy and theosophist as those that are well understood. Ministers are studying the doctrines known as theosophical, even when the amusing spectacle is presented to us of Dr. Pentecost going to India in order to convert learned Brahmins to Christianity by means of debate, where he begins his task, as reported by himself last month, by hobnobbing with the English aristocratic officials there. Meanwhile in every congregation here there are many men and women engaged in acquiring knowledge of such doctrines as Karma and Reincarnation, sure to be followed soon by belief in them and an endeavor to practice brotherhood.

Since our last Convention there have been chartered no fewer than 19 Branches:—

Dâna T. S.	Sioux City, Iowa.	Chartered May 3, 1890.
Amrita T. S.	Lincoln, Neb.	" May 3, 1890.
Hermes Council T. S.,	Baltimore, Md.	" June 11, 1890.
Vyasa T. S.	New Orleans, La.	" June 11, 1890.
Lotus T. S.	Kearney, Neb.	" July 3, 1890.
Seattle T. S., No. 1	Seattle, Wash'n Terr.	" Aug. 7, 1890.
First T. S. of Jamestown	Jamestown, N. Y.	" Sep. 15, 1890.
East Los Angeles T. S.	East Los Angeles, Calif.	" Nov. 3, 1890.
Die Deutsch Theosophische Gesellschaft	Phila., Pa.	" Nov. 12, 1890.
Siddartha T. S.	Vicksburg, Miss.	" Nov. 14, 1890.
Vishnu T. S.	Pittsburg, Pa.	" Nov. 21, 1890.
Keshava T. S.	Boulder, Colo.	" Nov. 25, 1890.
Willamette T. S.	Portland, Oregon,	" Nov. 29, 1890.
Memphis T. S.	Memphis, Tenn.	" Dec. 10, 1890.
Indra T. S.	Clinton, Iowa.	" Dec. 19, 1890.
Iron City T. S.	Pittsburg, Pa.	" Dec. 29, 1890.
Annie Besant T. S.	Fort Wayne, Ind.	" Jan. 24, 1891.
Toronto T. S.	Toronto, Canada.	" Feb. 25, 1891.
Dhyana Lodge T. S.	Los Angeles, Calif.	" Apr. 22, 1891.

On March 31st I received official notice from three of the Branches in Los Angeles, Calif., *to wit*, the Sattwa T. S., the Sakti T. S., and the East Los Angeles T. S., that each desired to surrender its Charter and to unite with the others in petition for a Charter for a new Branch to be called the Dhyana Lodge T. S., and to be composed of the members of the three previous Branches. The petition received

the sanction of the Executive Committee, and a charter to the Dhyana Lodge T. S. was duly issued on April 22. This action reduces the number of Chartered Branches to 52. No other Branch has relinquished its Charter, and the only "Private" Branch has opened its doors. There is now no "Private" Branch in the American Section. The full list is given at the end of the "Proceedings."

The number of new members admitted during the past year is 432. There have been 13 deaths, 23 resignations, and one expulsion. On the 22nd of December official notice was sent me by the Golden Gate Lodge of San Francisco that Mrs. Marie L. Farrington, a member thereof, had been convicted, after due trial, of having published over her own signature a pamphlet bitterly hostile to the Theosophical Society and calumniatory of its Founders and members, and had been expelled from membership. In order to make this sentence effective as regards the whole Society, the Executive Committee was invited to give

it sanction, and did so unanimously. One would naturally suppose that any individual of honest mind, believing himself to have discovered in an organization wherewith he was connected radical<sup>2</sup> fraud and evil, would promptly and spontaneously withdraw from it, instinctively recoiling from doctrines he had found false and morals he perceived vile. To proclaim the vileness of an organization and yet refuse to leave it is a paradox beyond all rational solution ; but in each of the two cases occurring in the American Section during the last two years the moralist clung to his membership while denouncing it as a disgrace, and in each case had to be forcibly removed and expelled.

The second *ad interim* Convention of the various Branches on the Pacific Coast, as authorized by the Executive Committee, was duly held in San Francisco in September, and gave still another impetus to that marvellous energy which is the admiration and delight of the whole American Section. The plan of supplying lecturers for public meetings, by which on each Sunday from 3 to 5 speakers are at different points expounding Theosophy to growing audiences, is one of the most efficient energies yet devised. What has been done in the distribution of literature will be reported under the Tract Mailing Scheme.

*The Theosophical Forum* continues its useful work, and 12 numbers have this year been issued, as against the 10 of last year. I have every reason to repeat the conviction heretofore expressed, that this little publication has great value to our whole Section, bringing all members, but especially members-at-large, into closer touch with the central office and each other, treating topics for which no space can be found in our other publications, throwing the light of reason and common-sense on questions so often arising in the fields of doctrine, fact, and duty. That it has no authoritative utterance does not detract from its value as a thoughtful contribution on thoughtful themes. The British Section has offered the highest compliment—imitation, and is now publishing a similar paper, *The Vahan*, and Adyar too has begun one for the special needs of the Indian Section, called *Prasnottra* as above stated.

Shortly after the adjournment of the last Convention, a long-meditated scheme took shape. With the consent of the Executive Committee, I addressed a circular to each Branch, notifying it of the establishment of the “Department of Branch Work” and of the issue of Papers therein contemplated, and inviting it to send me for possible use the cream of the articles read at its meetings. There are not a few of our Branches whereto a supply of suggestive articles would be invaluable as giving material for public meetings and as stimulating thought and discussion ; and certainly it seemed most wise that such should be

put in permanent form, preserved for continuous use in our future work, furnished to each new Branch as part of its capital. The exigencies of the Headquarters do not admit of these prints having place with any regularity, yet 13 Branch Papers have thus far been issued, and I hope to increase the number next year. They are sent only to the Secretary of each Branch, should be carefully kept among the Branch archives, and should be bound when sufficiently numerous. I regret to say that some retiring Secretaries have not been careful of these, and it is a pity that theosophical duty is not yet stronger than human nature.

In January last still another sphere of activity was founded,—the Oriental Department. As explained in circulars and in the *Path*, its object is to secure from Oriental pundits certain translations from the Sanscrit or other Eastern tongues which are otherwise inaccessible, as well as accurate information about Indian customs and ideas.

I believe that much important Theosophic information can thus be obtained and circulated, and that not a few facts bearing on the 2nd of the Society's objects can be added to those we have. The Executive Committee having sanctioned the cost of printing, 3 such pamphlets have been mailed in connection with the *Forum*, going to each member of the Society in good standing. This Department's scope includes the employment by this Section in India of one or more native scholars competent to carefully seek for and translate matter for this Section. There are at least three great divisions of India that should be covered in this way, and it is my hope that in no long time we shall have these scholars in our service. With that in view I suggested not long ago that donations be made to the Department. The response was such as to assure the treasury for the salaries required at least, and accordingly in March I wrote to several friends in India to select our pandit, sending at the same time an offer to one learned man at Nadiad.

Bro. Bertram Keightley found a competent Tamil scholar in Madras with a good knowledge of English, and offered his services for the Oriental Department. This offer I accepted for six months as a trial of the fitness and competency of the scholar, and about the month of June shall have full details of whatever agreement Bro. Keightley has made. At the same time I heard from the pandit at Nadiad, Prof. Manilal Dvivedi, who wrote saying that he thoroughly approved of the idea proposed in the circular sent to India, so that I have no doubt he will accept the offer of his appointment as Pandit for this Section. We then have actually fully started the Oriental scheme, and good results may be expected from a year's work. Of course the expense of carrying the Department will involve more than the salaries of the Indian scholars, as there are printing and mailing to do here, and, if the work increases,

it will require constant attention from some one person in order to see that it is well done. But all these details will straighten themselves out in the course of time. Meanwhile the papers of the Oriental Department were begun in January by an article from the pen of Swami Bhaskara Nand Saraswati, a Hindu friend now here; in February the second was furnished by Dr. Umedram Lalbai Desai, who is now in London; and in April the third by Mr. Panchanan Ghosh of the Rajmahal T. S. in Bengal, India.

The Aryan Press, on which the first report was made last year, unceasingly continues its great services to the Society, and on a slightly larger scale. The devoted Theosophist who originally conducted it removed to the London Headquarters for a like work there, and his brother, a Brother in every sense, took his place. With him since last winter has been associated another of those laborers which the Society seems so fortunate in securing when needed, for the amount of necessary printing has so swollen that *two* persons are requisite for its execution. To give you some idea of its operations, I may say that, in addition to a large number of labels, lists, and other matter for the *Path* office, various pamphlets and documents for the Esoteric Section, and the production of new editions of General Secretary's circulars from the electrotyped plates, it has printed the *Forum*, the Branch Papers, the Papers of the Oriental Department, new circulars issued from Headquarters, the pamphlets *Theosophy the Religion of Jesus*, *Theosophy and its Message*, *The Crown of Life*, together with others also paid for by individuals, and a variety of miscellaneous matter public and private. It is certainly remarkable that so small a body as the T. S. should thus maintain, even by individual and not corporate effort, mostly for its distinctive publications, a printing office and two printers, and I believe that this is one of those agencies now only in their childhood, and destined to a future that, could we now view it, would seem gigantic.

The Circulating Library, which was started by a member of the Aryan T. S., has slowly grown, its small fees being appropriated to the purchase of new books. It now contains 165, and the number of persons who have used it has risen from 60 to 110. As not a few applicants know no member whose endorsement can be secured, I have authorized its use upon deposit of \$5.00 as security for the single book allowed out at one time. Of course no authority from you is needed for this, as it is still private property. Probably more persons would avail themselves of its privileges if the small cost was more generally understood.

The Tract Mailing Scheme, so warmly commended to you in my report last year, has had most generous aid. The number of tracts then

printed was 130,000 ; it is now 261,000. Contributions in money were then \$337.11 ; they are now \$1906.95. Of this, \$351.75 were given specifically for New York City. Experience has led to the use of City Directories, hopeful names being checked and a tract mailed to each. Of course this involves no small expense, and it would be difficult to approximate the number of hours passed in the mere work of checking the names, and yet, if the list of cities thus treated and reached was read to you, it would be seen that in this, as in so many other departments, I have had the aid of faithful, devoted Theosophists, East and West, who have grudged no amount of labor or of time in this tedious and mechanical duty. Thus it is that the seed is scattered broadcast over the land, and those of us who are at the Headquarters and note the letters of inquiry and interest arriving know that not all is lost, but that some falls upon ready soil, ripens, fructifies, and becomes in time a source of further, spreading life. You should not forget that this branch of work, like the Press and Library, could never have been started on our Treasury, and that it has never drawn any money from the latter.

Yet even this large number of leaflets printed gives an inadequate idea of what the Tract Mailing Scheme has done. For to it must be added no fewer than 70,000 printed by the Pacific Coast Executive Committee from duplicates of our plates. One of our members paid the expense of sending a copy of *Theosophy the religion of Jesus* to each student in each Theological Seminary of which a catalogue could be obtained, and about 1500 were so used from the 14000 thus far printed. Of the 7000 copies of the pamphlet *Theosophy and its Message* now printed, several thousand have been ordered for distribution by persons working privately in furtherance of Theosophy.

Still another activity privately carried on by one of my devoted associates and myself is a systematized plan for securing insertion in newspapers of brief articles explanatory of Theosophy. His days being wholly occupied with business, he has used his evenings therefor, and with the result of gaining publication to a large number of such papers in different sections of the country, the cost, except in labor, being only postage. The good thus done no one can compute. Many newspapers have accepted articles on Theosophy, one having agreed to give a column each Sunday, and in March the *Twentieth Century* inserted one by myself upon "Religion and Reform Theosophically Considered." As this is a popular magazine, the printing of this is a hopeful sign.

The last Conventional year closed with a surplus in our treasury of \$973.65. To myself, and doubtless to most readers of the Report, so large a sum seemed assurance that no special appeal for the needs of

the General Secretary's office would be requisite this year, and almost certainly the Branches and Brethren were influenced by it to forbear from similar gifts since Convention. But very soon I found that our increased expenses were absorbing this surplus, and therefore used the authority conferred by your Resolution to invite a contribution. It was not largely given, and in order to make the facts more distinct to all members I sent out with the February *Forum* a statement of how very little really remained to the treasury from the annual dues after subtracting the expense of furnishing each member with the literature allowed him. The dues to the office are only \$1.00 per year, of which about 50 cents are returned to him in this literature. Even the remaining 50 cents are not entirely without charge, for the postage on dues card and receipt to Members-at-large is 4 cents; and though this is saved in Branch membership, the cost of Branch Papers more than offsets it. It is probable that the General Secretary's office receives only about 45 cents clear from the \$1.00 dues of each member. As Charter-fees and diploma-fees go to India, our only additional revenue, other than donations, is from the \$2.00 entrance fee of Members-at-large.

If we look at the great and growing work of the office, and consider how largely the future of Theosophy in this country turns upon the thoroughness with which that work shall be fulfilled, we must admit, Brethren, that such an income is pitifully small. Yet the true method to increase it is evidently not by raising the dues. One dollar is all that not a few of our members are able to pay,—some are really unable to pay that, and the policy of the Society has always been to place its monetary exactions at the lowest possible point. This is eminently a case where the stronger should lift the burden from the weaker, and the true appeal is to the spirit of fraternal generosity which will not let the weaker be over-weighted, and to the spirit of zealous help which will not let the work abate.

To this second appeal, I rejoice to say, a hearty response was made. In the two months following it the General Secretary's fund received no less than \$658.55, and the special fund for the Oriental Department \$490. The effect is to enable us to open the Conventional year with a surplus on hand of \$1433.07. This, however, like that of \$973.65 in 1890, will undoubtedly be exhausted unless your donations are continued. In order to make the case entirely clear, the subject should be pursued somewhat further.

The Treasurer's Report will show our exact financial status. But let me, as a stimulus to your liberality, quote certain of its figures. Our postage and stationery expenses alone have been this year \$297.95; those for printing \$527.02. When you compare the aggregate,

\$824.97, with the amount from dues and fees after deducting the proportion sent to India, \$1253.25, you see how inadequate are our resources. And yet this makes no provision for rent, salaries, and incidentals, \$1187.88. Obviously, therefore, but for gifts this office would have to suspend almost every activity not purely routine, and even then would run into debt.

Yet dollars and cents do not fully express the facts which I wish to press home upon you, either as to the extent of the General Secretary's work or as to the conditions under which it is conducted. One very important part of this is the correspondence on Theosophical questions and Society business. My assistant's hand twice became disabled from over-use, and, indeed, no man could now perform this one function. Hence the stenographer is an essential to the office. But growing out of this correspondence, and ever more so as our Branches—now 52—multiply, is a mass of detail, part of it mechanical, part of it needing intelligence, which demands an increasing amount of time. Every possible labor-saving device is used, yet evidently the expansion of Theosophy is bound to surpass my present power to meet it. I have transferred some small details to the *Path* office to obtain relief, but this is very partial. Briefly, the desideratum is this,—*resources sufficient to enable me to turn routine duty over to hands competent for that, and so release trained intelligence for the higher and more far-reaching services relating to literature, correspondence, and the preparation of new schemes.* The common-sense of this you will undoubtedly concede.

But no such release is possible until the resources are supplied. And this is one reason why I so strongly ask American Theosophists to supply them.

It is not, however, the only one. In addition to the facts that opportunities for spreading Truth are lost when I have not on hand the small cost necessary to utilize them, that all my present machinery could be enlarged if I had the means, and that new plans have to be held in abeyance simply because there is no money for their execution, there are two very special matters in which we should all interest ourselves. One is the inadequacy of the present office of the General Secretary and Headquarters. In my last report I detailed to you the gradual increase of the staff and the successive removals to larger rooms. It was at one time thought possible that the Aryan Society would this year secure its own building and sub-let to the General Secretary fitting space. This has been of necessity postponed till '92. Meantime my quarters have become so cramped that there is not room for the accumulating documents, and for some additional clerical aid secured to me by friends there is no accommodation. I am unable to secure privacy for

interviews on Theosophical business, and the work of the staff is sometimes interrupted because their stations have to be vacated. This state of things became in February so unendurable that I was forced into action. A generous pledge from a generous friend paved the way to the securing of a most desirable suite of rooms on another floor of the same building, and on May 1st we shall move thereto. The new quarters will furnish ample space, are excellently lighted, and are in every way adapted to our wants. The additional expense to the Society will only be \$100, making the total for rent but \$400, and this increase you are asked to sanction.

The other—a most important scheme, but requiring funds—is a Theosophical lecturer. If we could have an educated Theosophist in the lecturing field, expounding Theosophy to the public, answering questions, giving information, visiting old and organizing new Branches, coming in contact with inquirers, the benefit to the Cause would be simply indescribable. The time for this has now come. Not only is the public mind sufficiently interested to warrant that step, but I am guaranteed \$1200 a year towards the expenses necessary for travel and maintenance ; and if you and all American Theosophists will contribute the remainder, he may be in the field by autumn. What such a work would mean, a daily proclamation in private and a frequent one in public of the Truths so potent in the regeneration of humanity, an energetic handling of every agency brought to him by friends and helpers, a constantly-swelling notice in the press, religious and secular, a nourishment and stimulus to all our Branches and members, you can picture for yourselves. Of what it may do you have seen something in the tour of Bro. Keightley in California and the West. What it will do you may see in the larger operations of a permanent Lecturer—provided I am enabled to engage him.

At much length I have thus laid before you, Brethren, the thing I need as General Secretary. It is *money*. I know that such is the appeal of every philanthropist, every clergyman, every teacher. Perhaps you are weary of it and have hoped to escape it in Theosophy. But Theosophy is like all other agencies in a world of matter ; it is subjected to the same conditions and necessities. If you feed it, the cause will grow ; if you starve it, it will dwindle. If you are truly earnest in the service of humanity, your purses will be as fully dedicated as your hearts, and the conviction that now is pre-eminently the time for action will open all others as it has opened those of the generous Brethren who have made possible such a report as I am making to you to-day. And so I repeat the appeal, repeat it for the great work always expanding before me, repeat it for my office needs, the circulation of literature,

the enlargement of Headquarters, the engagement of an American Lecturer.

At the close of my Report last year, I said that there remained to us but seven years of the closing Cycle. There now remain but six. Deeply gratified must all of us be that this one has not been wasted. The hopes of the Convention of 1890 have been justified. The Theosophical Society has grown in numbers and reputation, assaults upon it have failed humiliatingly, the public ear is familiarized with its name and more open to its tenets, its members are more conscious of their privileges and duties, the record of their labors is more full. It is no small boon to have lived during the youth of a Society prompted by great Intelligences, and founded by H. P. Blavatsky; it is a greater boon to have aided it to its maturity and co-operated with it in its mission.

I ask your adoption of the following Resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, that the Convention approves the inclusion of the "Oriental" and "Branch Work" Departments within the operations of the General Secretary's office, and authorizes the expenditure they involve, and ratifies all that the Executive Committee authorized to be done therein and thereabout.

2. *Resolved*, that the Convention again expresses its cordial valuation of the *Theosophical Forum*, the Tract Mailing Scheme, and the various activities carried on under the auspices of Headquarters.

3. *Resolved*, that the Convention appeals most earnestly to every American Theosophist for liberal gifts to the support of the General Secretary's office and the work it executes, believing direct donations a duty from each.

4. *Resolved*, that the engagement of a Lecturer for the American Section is a step of incalculable value to the spread and establishment of Theosophy, and that the Convention hails the prospect of such with enthusiasm, urging all members of the Society to make it practicable through their support.

5. *Resolved*, that the usual powers of the Executive Committee respecting outlays be extended to cover the above purposes.

And in pursuance of notice given last year and also to the Committee on Amendments, I suggest amendments to our rules as follows:

1. That dues and fees of applicants for membership-at-large may be remitted, in proper cases, by order of the General Secretary or the Executive Committee.

2. That Branches have the option to absolve their own members from the payment of Branch dues and fees, but in all cases Branches shall be responsible to the General Secretary and Treasurer for the one

dollar per year for each member on the Branch Roll, and for the \$1.50 to be sent with each application for membership.

3. That in cases where applicants for membership in the Society desire simultaneously to join the Society and form a Branch, each of the five or more proposed Charter members shall be obliged to pay only the \$1.50 which would be paid to the General Treasury if joining a Branch, instead of the \$3.50 imposed as dues for membership-at-large.

4. That members-at-large joining the Society and paying the usual fees at any time within the four months immediately preceding the first of any January shall not be chargeable with the dues payable on the first of that January.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM Q. JUDGE,

*General Secretary.*

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

## RECEIPTS.

Surplus from 1890 .....	\$973.65
Branch Dues.....	\$1,111.50
Dues and fees from members-at-large.....	559.50
Charter-fees.....	90.00
Donations from Branches.....	228.85
Donations from Individuals.....	1,320.52
Donations to India.....	1,535.79
"    " B. Keightley's work.....	25.00
"    " Col. Olcott's Vacation.....	119.50
"    " Ceylon.....	25.00
"    " London Headquarters.....	27.00
Sale of Reports of 1890.....	6.39
Sale of Forums and Sundries.....	74.95
	\$5,124.00
	-----
	\$6,097.65

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Remitted to India :—

Donations.....	\$1,534.79
Diploma fees.....	233.00
Charter fees.....	85.00
Deficit on 25% appropriation..	184.75
	2,037.54
Remitted for B. Keightley's work.....	25.00
"    " Col. Olcott's vacation.....	119.50
"    " London Headquarters.....	27.00
"    " Ceylon.....	25.00
"    " Pandit in India.....	60.00
Travel to Convention of 1890.....	54.00
Rent.....	360.00
Stationery and stamps.....	297.95
Printing and Mailing Convention Rep. of '90	303.69
Forums.....	187.82
Printing.....	339.20
Salaries.....	646.00
Incidentals.....	181.88
	\$4,664.58
Surplus.....	1,433.07

E. &amp; O. E.

NEW YORK, April 15th, 1891.

WILLIAM Q. JUDGE,

*Treasurer.*

The following Committees were appointed :

AUDITING COMMITTEE.

Dr. La Pierre,	Mr. Robert Crosbie,
Dr. Buck,	

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

Arthur B. Griggs,	Sidney Thomas.
Geo. D. Ayers,	E. Aug. Neresheimer,
Dr. A. P. Buchmann,	William Q. Judge,

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS FOR 1891-92.

Dr. La Pierre,	A. O. Robinson,
J. Guilford White,	E. B. Rambo,
	Henry T. Patterson.

On motion the General Secretary's report was received and referred to the Committee on Resolutions, and the Treasurer's report to the Auditing Committee.

The following Committee on Practical Work was then elected by the Convention :

Mrs. J. Campbell VerPlanck, Ch'n,	Mr. George M. Stearns,
Mrs. E. A. Neresheimer,	Mr. J. R. Bridge,
Capt. George R. Boush,	Mr. Alexander H. Spencer,
Miss M. J. Barnett,	Mr. George H. Baldwin,
Mrs. J. D. Buck,	Mrs. E. D. Moffett,
Mr. C. F. Willard,	Miss Cynthia Bates.

Dr. J. D. Buck proposed and Mr. J. Ransom Bridge seconded the following resolution :

*"Whereas, The Convention of the American Section of the Theosophical Society now in session, appreciating the personal sacrifices, the unfailing heroism, and the transcendent importance of the labors of Mme. H. P. Blavatsky, without which the Society would have had no existence, and*

*Whereas, Through the labors of Mme. Blavatsky the tenets of the Wisdom Religion are being brought to the world in a measure unknown and unprecedented for many centuries, therefore*

*Resolved, That this Convention instruct the General Secretary to cable to Mme. Blavatsky its warmest sympathy, its most cordial appreciation of her work, and its unqualified confidence in her mission and teaching."*

The resolution was carried unanimously by a rising vote.

Dr. J. D. Buck then presented and Mr. Sidney Thomas seconded the following resolution :

*" Whereas, This Theosophical Convention fully appreciates the long years of faithful service rendered to the T. S. by Colonel Olcott, and*

*Whereas, Through these labors performed in a foreign land through great hardships his health has been lately impaired, therefore*

*Resolved, That the General Secretary be instructed to convey to Col. Olcott its high appreciation of his valuable services and his loyal devotion to the work of the Society, and to express its hope that he may be fully restored to health and vigor, and live long to enjoy the honors that belong to the world's benefactors."*

The resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

Mr. H. T. Patterson of Brooklyn then presented a list of studies of the Brooklyn Branch, and a standing committee was appointed to make a study of the best methods for Branch work.

#### COMMITTEE ON BRANCH WORK.

H. T. Patterson,

William Q. Judge,

Dr. A. P. Buchmann,

Dr. Jerome A. Anderson,

Robert Crosbie.

The Chairman then invited Mr. Judge to take the Chair, and himself presented a request from the Los Angeles T. S. that the next Convention be held in that place, also making a motion in favor thereof. Mr. George M. Stearns raised the point of order that under the Constitution the Executive Committee was empowered to decide where the Convention should meet, and that the resolution was therefore out of order. The Chair declared the point well taken, and Bro. Rambo resumed the Chair. The Convention then adjourned till the afternoon session.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

APRIL 26th.

The Convention re-assembled at 3 p. m. at the same place, Bro. Rambo presiding. A dense crowd filled the hall, occupying all the standing room, and 200 persons were turned away from the doors unable to enter. The Chairman then introduced Mrs. Annie Besant as special delegate from Mme. Blavatsky and as the bearer of a letter from her to the Convention. Mrs. Besant read the letter as follows :—

## SALUTATORY LETTER FROM MME. H. P. BLAVATSKY.

TO THE BOSTON CONVENTION, T. S., 1891.

For the third time since my return to Europe in 1885, I am able to send to my brethren in Theosophy and fellow citizens of the United States a delegate from England to attend the annual Theosophical Convention and speak by word of mouth my greeting and warm congratulations. Suffering in body as I am continually, the only consolation that remains to me is to hear of the progress of the Holy Cause to which my health and strength have been given ; but to which, now that these are going, I can offer only my passionate devotion and never-weakening good wishes for its success and welfare. The news therefore that comes from America, mail after mail, telling of new Branches and of well-considered and patiently worked-out plans for the advancement of Theosophy cheers and gladdens me with its evidences of growth, more than words can tell. Fellow Theosophists, I am proud of your noble work in the New World ; Sisters and Brothers of America, I thank and I bless you for your unremitting labours for the common cause so dear to us all.

Let me remind you all once more that such work is now more than ever needed. The period which we have now reached in the cycle that will close between 1897-8 is, and will continue to be, one of great conflict and continued strain. If the T. S. can hold through it, good ; if not, while Theosophy will remain unscathed, the Society will perish — perchance most ingloriously—and the World will suffer. I fervently hope that I may not see such a disaster in my present body. The critical nature of the stage on which we have entered is as well known to the forces that fight against us as to those that fight on our side. No opportunity will be lost of sowing dissension, of taking advantage of mistaken and false moves, of instilling doubt, of augmenting difficulties, of breathing suspicions, so that by any and every means the unity of the Society may be broken and the ranks of our Fellows thinned and thrown into disarray. Never has it been more necessary for the members of the T. S. to lay to heart the old parable of the bundle of sticks than it is at the present time ; divided, they will inevitably be broken, one by one ; united, there is no force on earth able to destroy our Brotherhood. Now I have marked with pain a tendency among you, as among the Theosophists in Europe and India, to quarrel over trifles, and to allow your very devotion to the cause of Theosophy to lead you into disunion. Believe me, that apart from such natural tendency, owing to the inherent imperfections of Human Nature, advantage is

often taken by our ever-watchful enemies of your noblest qualities to betray and to mislead you. Sceptics will laugh at this statement, and even some of you may put small faith in the actual existence of the terrible forces of these mental, hence subjective and invisible, yet withal living and potent, influences around all of us. But there they are, and I know of more than one among you who have felt them, and have actually been forced to acknowledge these extraneous mental pressures. On those of you who are unselfishly and sincerely devoted to the Cause, they will produce little, if any, impression. On some others, those who place their personal pride higher than their duty to the T. S., higher even than their pledge to their divine SELF, the effect is generally disastrous. Self-watchfulness is never more necessary than when a personal wish to lead, and wounded vanity, dress themselves in the peacock's feathers of devotion and altruistic work ; but at the present crisis of the Society a lack of self-control and watchfulness may become fatal in every case. But these diabolical attempts of our powerful enemies—the irreconcilable foes of the truths now being given out and practically asserted—may be frustrated. If every Fellow in the Society were content to be an impersonal force for good, careless of praise or blame so long as he subserved the purposes of the Brotherhood, the progress made would astonish the World and place the Ark of the T. S. out of danger. Take for your motto in conduct during the coming year, "Peace with all who love Truth in sincerity", and the Convention of 1892 will bear eloquent witness to the strength that is born of unity.

( Your position as the fore-runners of the sixth sub-race of the fifth root-race has its own special perils as well as its special advantages. Psychism, with all its allurements and all its dangers, is necessarily developing among you, and you must beware lest the Psychic outruns the Manasic and Spiritual development. Psychic capacities held perfectly under control, checked and directed by the Manasic principle, are valuable aids in development. But these capacities running riot, controlling instead of controlled, using instead of being used, lead the Student into the most dangerous delusions and the certainty of moral destruction. Watch therefore carefully this development, inevitable in your race and evolution-period, so that it may finally work for good and not for evil ; and receive, in advance, the sincere and potent blessings of Those whose good-will will never fail you, if you do not fail yourselves. )

Here in England I am glad to be able to report to you that steady and rapid progress is being made. Annie Besant will give you details of our work, and will tell you of the growing strength and influence of our Society ; the reports which she bears from the European and

British Sections speak for themselves in their record of activities. The English character, difficult to reach, but solid and tenacious when once aroused, adds to our Society a valuable factor, and there are being laid in England strong and firm foundations for the T. S. of the twentieth century. Here, as with you, attempts are being successfully made to bring to bear the influence of Hindu on English thought, and many of our Hindu brethren are now writing for *Lucifer* short and clear papers on Indian philosophies. As it is one of the tasks of the T. S. to draw together the East and the West, so that each may supply the qualities lacking in the other and develop more fraternal feelings among nations so various, this literary intercourse will, I hope, prove of the utmost service in Aryanising Western thought.

The mention of *Lucifer* reminds me that the now assured position of that magazine is very largely due to the help rendered at a critical moment by the American Fellows. As my one absolutely unfettered medium of communication with Theosophists all over the World, its continuance was of grave importance to the whole Society. In its pages, month by month, I give such public teaching as is possible on Theosophical doctrines, and so carry on the most important of our Theosophical work. The magazine now just covers its expenses, and if Lodges and individual Fellows would help in increasing its circulation, it would become more widely useful than it is at the present time. Therefore, while thanking from the bottom of my heart all those who so generously helped to place the magazine on a solid foundation, I should be glad to see a larger increase in the number of regular subscribers, for I regard these as my pupils, among whom I shall find some who will show the capacity for receiving further instruction.

And now I have said all. I am not sufficiently strong to write a more lengthy message, and there is the less need for me to do so as my friend and trusted messenger Annie Besant, she who is my right arm here, will be able to explain to you my wishes more fully and better than I can write them. After all, every wish and thought I can utter are summed up in this one sentence, the never-dormant wish of my heart, "Be Theosophists, work for Theosophy!" Theosophy first, and Theosophy last; for its *practical* realization alone can save the Western world from that selfish and unbrotherly feeling that now divides race from race, one nation from the other; and from that hatred of class and social considerations that are the curse and disgrace of so-called Christian peoples. Theosophy alone can save it from sinking entirely into that mere luxurious materialism in which it will decay and putrefy as civilizations have done. In your hands, brothers, is placed in trust the welfare of the coming century; and great as is the trust, so great is

also the responsibility. My own span of life may not be long, and if any of you have learned aught from my teachings, or have gained by my help a glimpse of the True Light, I ask you, in return, to strengthen the Cause by the triumph of which that True Light, made still brighter and more glorious through your individual and collective efforts, will lighten the World, and thus to let me see, before I part with this worn-out body, the stability of the Society secured.

May the blessings of the past and present great Teachers rest upon you. From myself accept collectively the assurance of my true, never-wavering fraternal feelings, and the sincere, heartfelt thanks for the work done by all the workers.

From their servant to the last,



H. P. BLAVATSKY.

Mrs. Besant then read the following additional message from Mme. Blavatsky :

REGENT'S PARK, LONDON, 15 : 4 : 1891.

TO THE FIFTH CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

*Brother Theosophists :*

I have purposely omitted any mention of my oldest friend and fellow-worker, W. Q. Judge, in my general address to you, because I think that his unflagging and self-sacrificing efforts for the building up of Theosophy in America deserve special mention.

Had it not been for W. Q. Judge, Theosophy would not be where it is to-day in the United States. It is he who has mainly built up the movement among you, and he who has proved in a thousand ways his entire loyalty to the best interests of Theosophy and the Society.

Mutual admiration should play no part in a Theosophical Convention, but honour should be given where honour is due, and I gladly take this opportunity of stating in public, by the mouth of my friend

and colleague, Annie Besant, my deep appreciation of the work of your General Secretary, and of publicly tendering him my most sincere thanks and deeply-felt gratitude, in the name of Theosophy, for the noble work he is doing and has done.

Yours fraternally,

H. P. BLAVATSKY.

After reading the foregoing letters Mrs. Besant addressed the Convention directly, and spoke with great eloquence upon the present duty of Theosophists, concluding with a thrilling description of the character and labors of H. P. B. For the message received the Chairman, on behalf of the Convention, returned warm thanks.

The General Secretary then read to the Convention greetings to it from the following foreign Branches :

Philalethean,	Scottish,
Chiswick,	Dublin,
Liverpool,	Vienna,
Newcastle,	Paris,
Bradford,	Madrid,
Birmingham,	Dutch-Belgium,
West of England,	de l'Orient et l' Occident, and Greek.

The report of Bertram Keightley, as delegate to the General Convention of the T. S. at Adyar in December, 1890, was then received and read, after which Dr. Archibald Keightley was introduced as delegate from the British Section and read the greeting addressed by that Section to the Convention.

(The above foreign letters of greeting are fully given in the Appendix.)

Mr. William Q. Judge then addressed the Convention on "Theosophy as a Reformer of Religion." At this point the Convention adjourned till 7 p. m.

#### EVENING SESSION.

APRIL 26TH.

The Convention re-assembled at Steinert Hall, the Hall being full. Bro. E. B. Rambo presided. It was moved that the reading of the minutes of the Convention of 1890 be dispensed with, they having been examined and approved by the Executive Committee. Carried. The

*Committee on Resolutions* reported their endorsement of all the resolutions recommended by the General Secretary at the close of his report, and those resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Convention.

The following resolution was then reported :

*"Resolved,* That we, the members of the American Section of the Theosophical Society in Annual Convention assembled, express our gratitude that, as our leader living in America, we have one of the Founders of the Theosophical Society, the General Secretary of the American Section, Bro. William Q. Judge of New York. By his unselfish devotion to us in our capacity as members of the Society, to the Society itself and its honored Leaders, to the Masters, to the Brotherhood of Humanity, and to the Wisdom Religion, he has endeared himself to all our hearts. Honest in intention and effort, untiring in zeal, inexhaustible in energy, fertile in expedient and wise in counsel, with his body, mind, and heart devoted to the cause of Truth, we take this opportunity to renew our expression of confidence in him, and pledge to him our sympathy and our earnest support in his great work."

On motion the above was unanimously adopted.

The following resolutions were then reported :

*"Resolved,* That we, the members of the American Section in Convention assembled, in addition to the gratitude and devotion expressed in the resolutions of the morning session, tender to Mme. H. P. Blavatsky our sincere and heartfelt thanks for sending to us her messenger, Mrs. Annie Besant, and for her letter to the Theosophists in America.

*Resolved,* That her words of encouragement and advice, and the words of her messenger, we will carry in our hearts, and will endeavor to cause them to bear fruit in our lives and future work.

*Resolved,* That we feel deep sympathy in the great trial of her sufferings, and earnestly hope that she will soon recover her health and be spared many years to work with us in her present body.

*Resolved,* That we, the members of the American Section of the T. S. in Convention assembled, hereby express our gratitude to our esteemed sister Annie Besant for her service to Theosophy and to this Convention in bearing to America the message of our beloved Teacher, H. P. B., and for her own words of wisdom and inspiration."

Unanimously carried.

Dr LaPierre moved that article second, section 1, of the Constitution be amended as follows :—

That in each case submitted to the Executive Committee for decision, all the evidence relating to that case shall accompany the circular.

The resolution was laid upon the table, but this action was upon motion reconsidered, and an amendment was then offered in these words :—

" Unless the Executive Committee consents to receive a summary from the General Secretary in cases where the entire evidence is too bulky."

The amendment was adopted, and the amended resolution passed. The Auditing Committee then presented the following report :—

" Your Auditing Committee would respectfully report that they have duly examined the reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer and find them all correct, and also recommend their adoption. J. W. B. La Pierre, *Chairman.*"

The report of the Committee was adopted and the Committee discharged.

The Committee on Resolutions then reported a proposed list of members of the Council, but upon motion their report was sent back with instructions to make the Council consist of an equal number of men and women. Various names were then suggested to the Committee, and the Council as finally elected by the Convention is as follows :

#### GENERAL COUNCIL.

Gen'l A. Doubleday,	Wm. Throckmorton,
E. O' Rourke,	Dr. Q. J. Winsor,
Sidney Thomas,	Miss Louise A. Off,
Wm. S. Wing,	Mrs. M. L. Brainard,
Mrs. E. G. Gilbert,	Mrs. A. M. Wyman,
Miss Lily A. Long,	Mrs. U. Gestefeld,
Alexander Fullerton,	Miss Marie A. Walsh,
J. J. Fernand,	Miss M. E. Swasey,
Frank I. Blodgett,	Miss K. Hillard,
F. M. West,	G. R. Boush,
G. M. Stearns,	Mrs. Emma W. Brook,
A. O. Robinson,	Mrs. E. A. Neresheimer,
Geo. E. Wright,	Mrs. Mercie M. Thirds,
Dr. J. D. Buck,	Mrs. Julia Y. Bessac,
J. G. Scotford,	Mrs. E. L. D. Moffett,
Dr. Ammi Brown,	Mrs. Helen M. Coy,
Elliott B. Page,	Mrs. J. C. Ver Planck.

On motion of Mr. A. B. Griggs it was resolved that the General Secretary be directed to have printed and distributed among the Branches the Constitution and By Laws of the American Section of the Theosophical Society. On motion of Mr. Sidney Thomas it was

"Resolved, That the American Section of the Theosophical Society in Convention assembled feels deeply indebted to the Boston Theosophical Society and to Bro. Arthur B. Griggs, its President, and hereby tenders to them its warmest thanks for the hospitality they have shown to the visiting members of the Society and to the Convention itself."

The Committee on Nominations then reported names for the Executive Committee for 1891-92, and the following gentlemen were elected:

Alexander H. Spencer,	E. A. Neresheimer,
Dr. A. P. Buchmann,	A. B. Griggs,
Alexander Fullerton,	Dr. J. D. Buck,
	and the General Secretary.

A paper by Mrs. Sarah A. Harris on "The Permanent Principle" was then read by title, and a letter from Mrs. S. A. English about girls' schools in Ceylon was referred. At 8 p. m. Miss Katharine Hillard of New York read a paper on "Dante's Beatrice from a Theosophical Point of View", after which Mr. J. Ransom Bridge read one upon "Reincarnation".

The hour of 9 having arrived, the Convention adjourned to meet at Tremont Temple on Monday at 10 a. m.

## SECOND DAY, MORNING.

APRIL 27TH.

The Convention assembled in Tremont Temple, Brother E. B. Rambo presiding. Mr. Alexander Fullerton of New York read a paper upon "*An American Theosophist*". The General Secretary announced that members of the Society were entitled to reserved seats at the evening lecture by Mrs. Besant. He then introduced to the Convention Swami Bhaskara Nand Saraswati, a native of India, and now a member of the Krishna T. S. of Philadelphia. The Swami addressed the meeting in Sanscrit for five minutes, and then read a paper in English upon the subject of "One God in the Vedas", closing with some further words in Sanscrit, a translation of which was repeated to the Convention by the General Secretary.

Dr. Archibald Keightley was then introduced by the Chairman and delivered an address on "*The Problems of Life and Death*", scientifically treating the question and showing that death, so called, is only a form of life. Mrs. Annie Besant then read the letter of greeting from the European Section (see Appendix) and made an address upon "Practical Work for Theosophists", explaining at length the methods pursued

by Theosophists of London in their work among the poor. Mr. Rambo described the work done among children in Sunday schools on the Pacific coast.

Dr. La Pierre moved that the Constitution be amended so as to alter the time of meeting of the Convention to July instead of April. Upon motion of Dr. Buck the proposition was laid upon the table.

The General Secretary then read to the Convention the following resolution adopted by the Toronto T. S. at its regular meeting, April 23d, 1891.

"We, the members of the Toronto T. S., desire to convey to Mrs. Annie Besant our welcome and congratulations on her safe arrival on the Western Continent, where the Theosophical Society had its birth.

We also wish to express to her, and through her to Mme. H. P. Blavatsky, our continued faith and esteem, and our appreciation of the labors of the Founders of our Brotherhood.

As the pioneers of our Society in the great colony of the Dominion of Canada, we recognize the grave responsibility resting upon us to be trusted servants of the Cause we have at heart, and to so bear ourselves that it may suffer nothing at our hands. Though few in numbers, we feel that we have the full force of the power that calls for righteousness to aid us, and, strong in this consciousness, and with the love that hopeth all things, we are resolved to pursue the path which Mme. Blavatsky has done so much to lighten for us, and strongly to follow after the beauty of holiness and the bringing of many into the perfect way of truth.

Signed on behalf of the Toronto T. S.,

ALBERT E. S. SMYTHE,

*President.*

Mr. Cyrus F. Willard then presented the majority report of the Committee on Practical Work as follows :

"Your Committee to whom was referred the question of practical Theosophical work other than that already being done, have had the matter before them for discussion, and after careful deliberation beg leave to make the following report. They recommend as follows:

1st, That no action on the question be taken by the Convention itself.

2d, That the formation of a league for various forms of practical Theosophical work be left to those members of the Theosophical Society who may desire to join together for that purpose.

3d, That the following Fellows of the Society, having expressed their interest in such a movement, be named as proper persons to start such a league,--Mrs. J. Campbell Ver Planck, (Chairman of this Com-

mittee), Cyrus F. Willard, (Secretary of this Committee), Mrs. E. L. D. Moffet, Mrs. L. C. Buck, Miss M. J. Barnett, Miss Katherine Hillard, George M. Stearns, H. T. Patterson, "Miss Cynthia Bates, William Q. Judge.

4th, That to these persons and all other Theosophists who may desire to join them be given the control of the movement."

Signed,

GEORGE M. STEARNS.

*Chairman,*  
CYRUS F. WILLARD,

*Secretary.*

The report was adopted, and the Convention adjourned till the afternoon session.

## SECOND DAY, AFTERNOON.

APRIL 27th.

A large audience assembled on the Temple floor at 2 p. m., and the Convention was called to order by Bro. A. B. Griggs.

Mr. Henry T. Patterson of Brooklyn T. S. delivered an address upon "*The Voice of the Silence*". Mr. William Q. Judge began an address by announcing as a question submitted to him by a Christian Scientist, "Why is H. P. Blavatsky sick?" Having replied to that question, he announced as his topic "*Religion and Reform from a Theosophical Viewpoint*", closing his remarks by urging upon women the stoppage of all frivolity and wasted energy, and an earnest effort to unite with them the men in charitable work. Some discussion ensued, and a lady in the gallery arose and said "I am in accord with the speaker; when women agree with each other, men will agree with them". Much applause and amusement followed. Dr. Buck then delivered a carefully-prepared paper upon "*The Secret Doctrine and the Higher Evolution of Man*", and then read a letter from Mrs. M. Musæus Higgins, F. T. S., stating that she had been selected by the Women's Education Society of Ceylon to take charge of their schools there and was about to depart for that island to devote her life to the work.

The chair then introduced Bro. Geo. D. Ayers of Malden T. S., who addressed the Convention upon *Brotherhood*.

At this point Bro. Rambo resumed the chair and called for a motion to adjourn if there was no further business. On motion duly seconded the Convention was then adjourned *sine die* at 5:06 p. m., after a few valedictory remarks by the Chairman.

WILLIAM Q. JUDGE,

*General Secretary.*

NEW YORK, May, 1891.

On Friday, April 24, a reception and high tea were given to Mrs. Annie Besant by the N. E. Women's Press Association at the Parker House, Boston, at which the President and Secretary of the Boston T. S. and the General Secretary T. S. occupied seats at the head of the table with the officers of the N. E. W. P. A. and Mrs. Besant. The latter spoke upon the true ideal of women as journalists, infusing Theosophy into her remarks.

On Saturday evening, April 25th, the Boston T. S. gave a reception to Mrs. Besant and the visiting delegates at their rooms, 152 Boylston street. The rooms were crowded. There were also several private meetings of Mrs. Besant with members of the T. S.

On Thursday afternoon, April 30, a special meetlng of Boston T. S. was held at their rooms to hear Mrs. Besant, Dr. Buck, and the General Secretary. The speakers insisted upon the necessity for solidarity and theosophical education among the members of the T. S.

All the Boston newspapers were crowded with accounts of the Convention and interviews with Mrs. Besant during the whole week.

## ABSTRACT OF REPORTS FROM BRANCHES.

ISIS LODGE, Decorah, Iowa, has 16 members. Its Library contains 91 books, and it takes all 3 of the Theosophical magazines.

AMRITA T. S., Lincoln, Neb., is less than a year old, and has not yet increased its original membership of 6. Weekly meetings are held, open to any one, and the children of members are encouraged to attend, but the conviction of the Branch is that its present duty is study, coupled with the circulation of Theosophical literature, rather than any pronouncedly public stand which might be premature. Outside interest, however, is spreading.

CHICAGO T. S. has a Library of 80 books.

POINT LOMA LODGE T. S., San Diego, Calif, has 7 members, and continues its open meeting on each Sunday afternoon. Business depression has affected it unfavorably, but the members refuse to lose heart.

DANA T. S., Sioux City, Iowa, in less than 10 months held 35 meetings, all but 2 open, and with an average attendance of 13 members. Two removals reduced the membership from 16 to 14, but additions have raised it to 22. Study has been upon the *Key* and the *Secret Doctrine*, and many articles from the three magazines have been read, as well as the Branch Department Papers; each meeting giving opportunity for answers to questions, and closing with a selection from the *Voice*. About 400 tracts have been distributed, 3 public lectures were secured from Mr. B. Keightley, and the Library contains 32 books, besides the 3 magazines. All feel encouraged and hopeful.

IRON CITY T. S., Pittsburg, Pa., is but a few months old, yet has a Library of 10 books. Meetings have been arranged for each Sunday afternoon.

BANDHU T. S., Santa Cruz, Calif, has open meetings every Sunday evening and holds extra meetings for Branch business. The *Key* has been studied and many papers read, besides 5 public lectures from visiting Theosophists, and those during the *ad interim* Convention. Seven new members have joined, and the Library has 30 books, in addition to the magazines. In the three summer months 29 visitors attended the meetings, most of whom there heard of Theosophy for the first time. There are now 18 members.

LIGHT T. S., Fort Wayne, Ind., is 17 months old, and has increased from 5 members to 25. It has a Library of 75 books, 86 magazines, and 17 pamphlets.

MUSKEGON T. S., Muskegon, Mich., has in 10 months exactly doubled its membership. Besides the regular open meeting each Tuesday evening, it has held since September a special meeting on Sunday afternoon for all who desire to study and discuss *The Secret Doctrine*. The Library contains 25 well selected books.

EXCELSIOR T. S., San Josè, Calif., began the year with 12 members, gained 3, but lost one by death and another by removal. An earnest effort has been made to bring Theosophical truth before the people, and a course of public lectures has been given, but the lack of a Society room has hindered efficient work. The *Key* is being studied as one step to fitly meet public inquiry.

ISHWARA T. S. has not a Branch Library, but its members lend their own books for its use, so that there are in the room about 50 books. Its room is in the N. Y. Life Ins. Building, and is open 2 hours each day, some one of the members being in attendance to answer questions and advise as to a course of study. There are 18 members.

CINCINNATI T. S. has now 31 members and a carefully-selected Library of 25 books. Much activity has existed during the past twelve-month, and in 6 respects it feels itself to have done good work : (1) the securing of a Headquarters, (2) the nucleus of a Library, (3) increase of membership, (4) the appointment of one evening each week for systematic study of Theosophy, (5) arrangement for and giving a course of 16 public lectures on Theosophy, (6) completed plans for continuing activity through the coming year.

LOS ANGELES T. S. The year has added 14 members to the roll, and only 2 demits were taken. Three important amendments were made to the By-Laws, one reducing the dues to \$1.50 per annum. The main feature of the year has been the coöperation of the three Branches in Los Angeles (now 4) in establishing a united Headquarters, where visitors are always welcomed and freely entertained by lectures and literature.

GOLDEN GATE LODGE T. S., San Francisco, Calif., has had a year of expansion in both growth and work. Its 26 members have increased to 44, though demits, etc., have reduced it by 13, a total gain of 18. The principal works projected, increased, or maintained have been the

regular weekly Branch session, public meetings every Sunday, supporting and enlarging the Branch Library, establishing a Headquarters, and disseminating Theosophical literature. In July, '90, a larger and better situated Hall for the Sunday meetings became necessary, and Red Men's Hall was taken, it being one of the best and most accessible in the city, still larger attendance ensuing. The Headquarters, with its Library, was also moved to larger rooms at 103 Park Ave., fittings and furniture being presented. The latest gift is an organ for the "Children's Hour" on Sunday,—a new line of work, fast growing in importance. The Library has now 200 books, all the T. S. Magazines are taken and are bound in volumes, and the rooms are open every day and on three evenings of each week. Strangers and inquirers are constantly calling. The Tract Mailing Scheme is vigorously carried on, and everything points to the utmost activity during 1891.

SATWA T. S., Los Angeles, Calif, has lost much by removals, the population being migratory. Satwa and Sakti Branches have worked together in the Headquarters, having had united weekly meetings since early in June. Much has been done in the Tract Mailing Scheme, and literature is spread in every direction. To the united Library at Headquarters, Satwa has contributed about 60 books.

STOCKTON T. S., Stockton, Calif, has added 11 to its roll of 27 and lost 2 by demit, making the present number 36. About 60 books are in the Library, and the various T. S. Magazines are taken. The influence of the Branch is more and more felt in the city, and many are inquiring. Except during 3 stormy nights, a meeting has been held at Headquarters every Sunday evening, 10 public lectures by able speakers have been given, all well attended. The visits of Dr. and Mr. Keightley were especially productive of good.

AURORA T. S., Oakland, Calif, has increased its membership from 13 to 23, held 52 open meetings, whereat were delivered 43 original lectures by 11 different speakers, and which were enlivened by music. The attendance ranged from 13 to 90. About 2,000 tracts were distributed at the meetings. The Library consists of 120 books, all much sought after. There have been 23 closed meetings, mainly devoted to study of the *Key*. The President of the Branch, besides lecturing frequently on Sundays, acts as Secretary to the Pacific Coast Committee, and has founded a Theosophical Sunday School in San Francisco, purposing one in Oakland as soon as practicable. The Branch organist has composed music for 5 poems from the *Path* and *Lucifer* used in the Sunday School.

UPASANA T. S., San Diego, Calif, has no less than 148 books in its Library.

ARYAN T. S., New York City, reports a year of much activity and growth. Deducting 12 demits, deaths, and resignations, its membership has increased from 72 to 80. The former hall proving inconvenient, it leased for its weekly meetings the Chapel of the Unitarian Church of the Messiah, an excellent room in an excellent locality. Several lectures have been given therein, all meetings being open. Through a special Committee a larger number of papers have been secured than ever before and a more general participation induced. The Library has increased, and now numbers 322 books. Several members residing in Harlem, the northern section of the city, have established a weekly meeting for elementary exposition to the public, and this gives hope of permanance as well as usefulness.

The project of a Headquarters building to contain the Branch room, the General Secretary's offices, the *Path*, and the Aryan Press cannot yet be carried out, as no suitable house has been in the market. It has been determined to allow the fund to accumulate and to make another attempt in the spring of 1892. A fit building is not easily found, and a premature purchase would involve dissatisfaction and loss. The one selected needs to be spacious, centrally located, and such as will serve the T. S. for many years. Hence the wise, the inevitable, delay.

SEATTLE T. S., Seattle, Washington Terr., was only chartered last August, and began its regular weekly meetings in September. One member has opened his office as a T. S. Reading Room, and many inquirers have resorted to it. The Library has already cost about \$100. Much good has been done by the friendly attitude and notices of the press, as also by a very free distribution of leaflets. Seattle has now 45,000 people of an energetic, vigorous type, and the aim has been to study and present Theosophy as a *practical* matter, a living issue. The Branch started with 5 members, has lost 2, and gained 8. Present number 11.

EAST LOS ANGELES T. S. is but 5 months old. Weekly meetings of from 15 to 30 persons have been uninterruptedly held, and much interest manifested. Every one is welcomed and is at liberty to state his own convictions or to put inquiries. The Library has 127 books and pamphlets, free, and *Lucifer* and the *Path* are taken. Eight members started the Branch, and one has joined since.

EUREKA T. S., Sacramento, Calif, has 19 members, a Library of 140 books, the 3 magazines being taken, and an assortment of tracts for distribution. The latter are always gladly given to any one interested.

BROOKLYN T. S. has held 76 meetings during this, its second, year, Thursday regular, Monday for study, making 138 since its organization. The attendance at the Thursday meetings aggregates 907 in second year, 1496 in the two years. Fourteen members have been admitted and one demitted ; present roll is 29. The Library contains 107 books.

SAKTI T. S., Los Angeles, Calif, continues active work. It has now 9 members and a Library of from 12 to 15 books. It will unite with the 3 other local Branches in asking a common charter.

TRIANGLE T. S., Alameda, Calif, lost heavily by withdrawals, but is recuperating and has now 8 members. One contributes a room in her house for the exclusive use of the Branch. All weekly meetings are open except one in a month for business, and a monthly public lecture is given and advertised. There are 12 books in the Library, and the *Path* and *Lucifer* are contributed.

BLAVATSKY T. S., Washington, D. C., meets each Friday evening at the law office of its President, has constant papers from members or other Branches, and provides for questions and discussions from inquirers. Tracts have been distributed, two public lectures given, and an increased demand for Theosophical literature in the District perceived. The attack upon Theosophy by Prof. Snell of the Roman Catholic University, and the rejoinder by Mr. Wm. Q. Judge, greatly stimulated public inquiry into the subject. The Branch has only 13 members and its Library only 74 books, but there are a far larger general interest and sympathy than these figures imply.

NARADA T. S., Tacoma, Washington Terr., was born in Jan., 1890. Less than 2 years ago there were but 2 F. T. S. in the far North-west, yet their work has been so fruitful that this Branch alone has increased from 7 to 24, meetings being well attended and interest spreading. Public meetings are held each Sunday afternoon, and others for study on Thursday evenings. There are also reading classes at private residences on Tuesday evening. Much encouragement is felt in the better grounding of students through these agencies.

KRISHNA T. S., Philadelphia, has in its Library 173 books and pamphlets, besides 6 bound volumes of the *Theosophist* and all the volumes

of *Lucifer*, the *Path*, and *Theosophical Siftings*. These four periodicals are subscribed for.

ARJUNA T. S., St. Louis, Mo., has a Library of 25 books, including a full set of the *Theosophist* bound.

MALDEN T. S. has 20 or 25 volumes and a quantity of periodicals and pamphlets. Five new members have joined in the past month, and the present number is 16.

FIRST T. S. OF JAMESTOWN, N. Y., was organized in September, 1890, with 9 members. Weekly meetings have since been held at private houses, supplemented by others. Much literature has been circulated in this and near towns. The Library contains 32 books and a large number of magazines and pamphlets.

## APPENDIX.

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### FOREIGN LETTERS.

FROM THE EUROPEAN SECTION T. S. TO THE FIFTH CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.—GREETING :

REGENT'S PARK,

LONDON, April 4, 1891.

*Brother Theosophists :*

The Fellows of the newly formed European Section send you their most fraternal greetings and their best wishes for the success of your Convention.

The European Section is but six months old, and is so indifferent to its external personality that it proposes to create other Sections out of its own limbs as time goes on. With such self-sacrificing propensities, it is naturally the least organized Section of the T. S. In fact, the object of centralizing the activity of the Society in Europe is not so much to have a Section organized on the same lines as your own, where all the members are of one language, if not of one nationality, but rather to aid the efforts of our workers in Europe so that they may first of all organize Branches and then Sections in their own countries.

In this direction the British Section leads the way and sets a most excellent example of energy and industry, as you will learn from its delegate, Dr. A. Keightley.

On the Continent itself the greatest activity is to be found in Sweden, and there is great hope that before your next Convention there will be a Swedish Section of the T. S. Our Scandinavian Brothers already have their own journal, the *Theosofisk Tidskrift*. Our last mail from Sweden told of the enrolment of 21 new members.

The Theosophists of Holland and Belgium also are working very energetically, especially at Amsterdam and the Hague. A strong branch has been formed at Amsterdam, and is already the parent of several working centres in other cities. Large quantities of theosophical pamphlets in Dutch have been distributed, and it is gratifying to

hear that the working classes show a ready and intelligent comprehension of such conceptions as Reincarnation and the Law of Karma.

Our Spanish Fellows, though few in number, have sent out as many as 12,500 pamphlets and periodicals in the Peninsula and to the Spanish colonies. They are of the opinion, however, that in the beginning it is not every new-comer who should be admitted into the T. S., and that no Branches should be formed until they are perfectly certain of their nucleus.

The Vienna Branch reports a growing interest in Theosophy, and good work is being done.

Activity is also steadily progressing in Greece, where a society has just been formed as an outer court to the T. S., and there is a nucleus of Theosophical interest in Switzerland and Italy and Russia.

In France our movement is passing through a critical period, owing to the original current of theosophical activity (which promised very great results) being turned into other directions by individuals who have since either resigned or been expelled from the Society.

Judging, however, from a like incident in your own history, there is no cause for discouragement, but rather expectation of increased activity.

*The Key to Theosophy* has been published in Swedish and is now also published in French and Spanish. It is also being translated into German, Greek, and Italian. *Esoteric Buddhism* has been published in French, and a host of miscellaneous pamphlets in Dutch and Spanish.

On the whole the last 6 months have brought about many important changes for the better, and the European Section can grasp the hand of the American Section with the assurance that the talent it has received from Theosophy has not been entirely hidden.

In conclusion, the Theosophists of Europe beg to tender you their most hearty congratulations on the devotion and energy which your Section has displayed during the past twelve months.

Sincerely and fraternally,

G. R. S. MEAD,

*General Secretary.*

FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY TO THEIR BROTHERS OF THE AMERICAN SECTION IN CONVENTION.—MOST HEARTY GREETINGS :—

The occasion which brings you together to-day is one on which it becomes us, as fellow-students of Theosophy and fellow-workers in the

cause of Universal Brotherhood, to offer you our sincere congratulations on the marked success which has attended your united efforts during the past 12 months; and while wishing you a speedy realisation of all those benefits to humanity, individual and social, which must ultimately result from the spread of Theosophical teachings, we can but reiterate our earnest desire to unite hand and heart in the work that still lies before you.

It would be impossible for us to attempt any specific remarks on the numerous departments of your work, and they are perhaps rendered unnecessary from the fact that the aggregate result of all your efforts so fully testifies to the great resources, earnestness, and devotion of those to whom the responsibility of carrying on the work of your Section has been intrusted.

We may perhaps take this opportunity of placing before you a brief account of our own work, which will doubtless of itself prove interesting, and at the same time inform you of the growing interest in, and power of, Theosophy in our own lands.

With the transfer of Headquarters to 19 Avenue Road and the increased facilities for all kinds of work which our present surroundings afford, we have been enabled of late to carry on the growing work of the Section to much greater advantage. A hall has been built in which the weekly meetings of the Blavatsky Lodge are held, and these meetings average 180 persons. The house has been further enlarged by the addition of secretaries' offices, etc., and the resident staff numbers twelve persons. These are engaged in carrying on the regular work of the Society, and in continual literary activity.

In confirmation of this speaks the fact that we have within the past year issued no less than 227 diplomas of membership, and in addition have admitted numerous associates to the Society. Six charters have also been granted to duly qualified Lodges, all of which show much vitality and promise for the future.

Our headquarters have recently been enlarged by the taking in of some adjoining premises (No. 17 Avenue Road), including a large detached house where several hard-working members will reside, and to which will be transferred the British Section Library and Reading rooms. The British Section has now an official organ in the little *Vahan*, which in alternate weeks is brought into requisition for the interchange of Theosophical views and opinions, reference to which will show the activities which have kept our hands so constantly employed.

The *Vahan* and all the printed matter of the Section are produced on the "H. P. B. Press" (the twin brother of the now famous "Aryan"),

under the careful management of a well known American brother who has recently come over to take up the work.

The publishing office at 7 Duke street is being carried on under the careful supervision of the Countess Wachtmeister, and issues a continual stream of useful publications, prominent among which are the T. P. S. pamphlets.

Classes and meetings for enquirers are held at various centres, and lending libraries have been established, both in connection with the various Lodges and elsewhere. Thus we have been enabled effectively to advance the spread of Theosophy in the United Kingdom, a fact which brings us into direct relationship with the object of your present Convention.

In conclusion, let us say that whatever may be the differences of national characteristics which have determined the necessity for Sectional organization, or the diversity of individual opinions tending to modify the reception of the Science and Ethics of Theosophy, we yet feel that the essential sameness of Human Nature and its needs, and the identity of our especial objects, unite us in a common bond of fidelity to that cause in which alone we can foresee the possibility of an eventual solution of the difficulties with which the problems of Life abound, and on which rests our only hope, that in a mystical, but very real, sense the whole earth will again be of "one language and one speech".

#### BLAVATSKY LODGE.

##### ADDRESS TO THE AMERICAN SECTION IN CONVENTION AT BOSTON, 1891.

The Blavatsky Lodge sends its fraternal greetings to the American Section on the occasion of their fifth annual Convention, and desires to express its sincerest congratulations on the work achieved by it during the past twelve months.

To you who labor among a new people and whose field of work lies in the land of the rising sixth sub-race, it is indeed difficult to explain the number and kind of obstacles that have to be surmounted in this older country, before theosophy can become thoroughly understood and accepted by the masses. The long, hard struggle in a country the gross materialism of whose peoples is perhaps the least of their bad qualities has, however, not been without result, and it argues not a little in favor of the divine origin of Theosophy when it can be shown as carrying its influence for good into the very heart of vice, crime, and misery.

The Lodge which bears the name of the beloved founder of our Society has achieved successes during the past year undreamed

of at its inauguration. Its numbers have increased with marvelous rapidity, the past six months alone registering an addition of forty members and thirty-seven associates. Since the establishment of the European Headquarters in July last, it has been able to hold its meetings in a hall built to hold over 200 persons, and the attendance has of late increased to such an extent that it now proves barely large enough to find room for all who would be present.

It seems almost trite at this stage of our progress to refer to the growing interest in our Society, yet it is worthy of notice that the public have evidently at last come to recognize our work, for the *press*, within the past year, has suddenly ceased to slander us and has apparently begun (to judge by the favorable notices from time to time appearing) to treat us quite as people of respectability.

Amongst our members the innovation of a monthly *conversazione* has proved to be of much service. The Council of the Lodge, conceiving that the rapid increase in the numbers joining gave little opportunity for their becoming personally acquainted with one another, decided to hold once a month an informal social gathering. By this means members before unknown to one another have come into contact, and a close unity and fraternal feeling, so essential for the carrying on of the work, have been brought about.

Classes for the study of the *Secret Doctrine* have been established amongst the members, and various centres for the spread of Theosophy formed throughout London.

At our meetings the Lodge has occupied itself with discussions on the *Key of Theosophy*, "Theosophy in relation to the problems of daily life," "Theosophy from the root up", etc. These extended over periods varying from three to six months, printed syllabi being issued to the members from time to time.

In conclusion, the Lodge has to renew its warm congratulations on the results achieved by its co-workers across the Atlantic.

Signed on behalf of the Blavatsky Lodge,

CLAUDE F. WRIGHT,

*Secretary.*

LONDON, 27 March, 1891.

BRIGHTON, April 15, 1891.

TO THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN CONVENTION.

Dear Friends :

In common with other Lodges in the British Section we desire to join in friendly greeting and to express the hope that your deliberations

may conduce to the welfare of the Theosophical Society and to the promotion of a wider interest on the part of the general public in the great work in which we are engaged.

Signed on behalf of the Brighton Lodge by

EDWARD ELLIS,  
*President.*

TO THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,  
ASSEMBLED IN CONFERENCE.

*The "Bradford Lodge" send Greetings,*

And offer their heartiest good wishes to the American Brethren, congratulate them upon their successful efforts in the cause of Theosophy, and unite in hoping that the future may witness a still further spread of Theosophic influences.

JOHN MIDGLEY,  
*Secretary.*

9 DOMBEY STREET, LIVERPOOL, 25 March, 1891.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

*Dear Sir and Brother :*

It affords me great pleasure to convey to you the hearty and fraternal greeting of the members of the Liverpool Branch of the Theosophical Society. As fellow labourers in the cause we have all at heart, we wish you every success in your future undertakings, trusting that the very satisfactory progress made in Theosophical work during the past year may be augmented in the future.

I remain yours fraternally,  
JOHN HILL,  
*Hon. Sec'y Liverpool Branch.*

FROM THE THEOSOPHISTS OF THE NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE LODGE.

To the American Section in Convention assembled, this letter of greeting is sent by our dear sister Annie Besant :

May your deliberations be conducive to the helping forward of humanity during this critical period of the Kaliyuga. Now is yours the work of seed-sowing ; the harvest will be in Karmic correspondence.

We ask you to join us in fraternal wishes that our honored President-Founder, H. S. O., and his well-loved and accomplished colleague, H. P. B., may long have strength and health to continue their noble work in the elevating of the Race.

On behalf of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Lodge,

F. BANDON ODING.

*President.*

ALEX. BOWIE,

*Vice-President.*

Newcastle-on-Tyne Lodge Theosophical Society,

30 Harrington Street, 21st March 1891.

#### LETTER FROM THE CHISWICK LODGE, ENGLAND.

CHISWICK, 21st March, 1891.

TO THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN CONVENTION:

The members of the Chiswick Lodge of the British Section T. S., are desirous of sending a fraternal greeting to the members of the American Section, assembled in Convention. They would do so not merely through sympathy with the noble idea of Universal Brotherhood, which is the bond of unity and common cause of all true Theosophists, but with a heartfelt desire that the deliberations of their Brothers in America may be fruitful of wise and sound judgment and counsel; feeling, as they do, that the bond of union is not an ideal but a real one, and that each individual member must feel the effects of the counsels which prevail.

W. KINGSLAND,

*President.*

#### WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

*Resolved*, that the West of England Branch tender their hearty greetings to the American Convention of the Theosophical Society, through the representative of the British Section of the Society, Mrs. Annie Besant, whose excellent work is so deeply appreciated by the British members, and they earnestly trust that the meeting in question may result in further good work in behalf of the great cause of theosophy. They wish the Convention and its President all success in their efforts.

Signed in the temporary absence of the President of the Branch, Mrs. Passingham, on behalf of the members of the Branch.

SUSAN E. GAY.

Endorsed by the members of the West of England Branch.

ADDRESS FROM THE PHILALETHEAN LODGE OF THE  
EUROPEAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

To the AMERICAN SECTION :

The Philalethean Lodge hereby sends its fraternal greetings to the American Section. It watches the spread of Theosophy in America with the deepest interest and appreciation, believing that only in an entire community of feeling and aspiration leading to continual interchanges of help can any stand be made against disintegration.

HERBERT CORYN.

*President of the Philalethean Lodge.*

*Brixton, London.*

LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM LODGE.

The "Birmingham Lodge" of the Theosophical Society present their *Fraternal Greetings* to their Brothers of the American Section, and take this opportunity of expressing their satisfaction at the rapid spread of Theosophy in the West, of wishing their American Brothers every success in promoting the work of the Society, and of asserting their allegiance to the great cause of *Universal Brotherhood*.

Signed,

SYDNEY H. OLD,

*Secretary.*

MESSAGE FROM THE DUBLIN LODGE OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION.

Since the well remembered visit of the American General Secretary, we in Dublin have felt better the reality of the tie of Brotherhood which Theosophy creates across oceans and continents. We know how "The Path" among all its many interests and "activities" has never forgotten Ireland ; and we in our turn have followed with pride the spread of our cause through America, not without a kind of envy for that freedom and susceptibility of thought on the part of the public which gives Theosophy so great an opening in the New World.

In Dublin, what with the help of Mr. Judge, Col. Olcott, and Mrs. Besant, and the constant exertions of some devoted workers, the Society has been steadily gaining ground ; and our last step in advance has been the establishment of a "Headquarters" where some of our best members will live together and so form a constant centre of influence which, we hope, will soon make theosophy tell with increased force through the

"Isle of Saints." Any American friends passing through Ireland will meet there with a *Caed Mille Failthe*.

Signed on behalf of the Dublin Lodge.

H. M. MAGEE,  
*President.*

THE SCOTTISH LODGE UNTO THEIR BRETHREN IN AMERICA.

14 March, 1891.

The Scottish Lodge in a full meeting of this date by unanimous vote directed the President and Council to convey to the American Section at their Annual Convention cordial fraternal greetings and assurance of good will.

The Scottish Lodge desire to thank their Brethren in America for many most excellent tracts and pamphlets which have been mailed to them within the last year, and which have been read and greatly appreciated, and in most cases discussed at meetings of the Lodge with much profit.

The Scottish Lodge congratulates the American Section on the great zeal, earnestness, and enthusiasm they have so successfully shown in the cause of Theosophy, and trusts that in future years the opportunities for reciprocal help and for the exchange of fraternal sympathy and mutual encouragement may continually increase.

J. M. BRODIE INNES,  
*President Scottish Lodge.*

BRANCHE NEERLANDO-BELGE DE LA SOCIÈTÉ THÈOSOPHIQUE.

W. Q. JUDGE, ESQUIRE,  
President of the American Section in Convention.

*Dear Sir and Brother :*

One of the youngest Lodges of the Theosophical Society, the Dutch-Belgian Branch just formed a month ago, desires to send to you and to all the Lodges and Branches of the American Section its fraternal greetings and heartfelt congratulations in view of the approaching Convention, earnestly wishing to you in your future work the same great and ever-increasing success that has been yours till now.

May true Brotherhood settle among us more and more! so that, to

use the golden words of the *Voice of the Silence*, we may be taught how to struggle "against the great dire heresy of separateness that weans us from the rest", and how "to step out from sunlight into shade, to make more room for others".

With feelings of cordial sympathy towards all our American Brethren,

Fraternally yours,

HERMANCE DE NEUFVILLE,

*President of the Dutch-Belgian Branch of the Theosophical Society.*

AMSTERDAM, HEMONYSTRAAT 48, 20th March, 1891.

[TRANSLATION.]

Theosophical Hdqrs, European Section.

PARIS, April 7th. 1891.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION.

Dear Brother:

At the moment when the American Convention assembles, it becomes the duty of all true theosophists scattered throughout the world to unite themselves in heart with their American brothers, whose zeal and devotion, crowned with success, should serve us as model and example.

It is from this point of view that I am happy, in the name of the French Branch, the *Lotus*, situated at Paris, 97 Rue de Rennes, to send you our best wishes, and every testimony of the sympathy of French Theosophists.

Accept, Mr. President and dear brother, the expression of my sentiments.

ARTHUR ARNOLD, F. T. S.

*President of the Lotus, French Branch of the T. S.*

#### LETTER FROM VIENNA BRANCH.

15 SIEBENBRUNNENGASSE,

WIEN V., April 5th, 1891.

TO THE AMERICAN FELLOWS OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY--OM!

The undersigned, President and Secretary of the Vienna Lodge of the Theosophical Society, in the name of all the Fellows of this Lodge send most hearty greetings! They regret very much their inability to be

present at the Convention held in your city. At the same time they express their hearty admiration for the great progress which has been made in Theosophy, and the spreading of the subject in such a short space of time!

Should any of the American Fellows visit Austria, and especially Vienna, we should be pleased to do all that lies in our power to give them a most cordial welcome!

In the name of all the Fellows of the Vienna Lodge,

FRIEDRICH ECKSTEIN,

*President.*

CHARLES, COUNT LEININGEN,

*Secretary.*

### LETTER FROM IONIAN BRANCH.

IONIAN THEOSOPHICAL BRANCH,

CORFU, 3d April, 1891.

*Dear Brothers and Sisters Theosophists :*

The members of the Ionian Branch of the Theosophical Society offer their fraternal greetings to their American Brothers and Sisters in Convention most cordially.

It is not only pleasing for the Fellows of this Branch to observe and remember, as an example for emulation, the earnest constant interest and most generous material and moral assistance the American loyal Theosophists, as a man, have taken, and offered spontaneously and with one accord to Adyar in the very moment of dire need ; but what calls the special admiration of this branch is the prompt recognition and expression in the most emphatic manner, on your part, O American Brothers!, of the valuable services and altruistic sacrifices of the two Principal Founders of the Theosophical Society, Col. H. S. Olcott and Madam H. P. Blavatsky, and that such a sentiment, due to merit and justice, this Branch doubts not is shared by all the Branches and Sections of the Theosophical Society throughout the world.

Much praise doubtless is due to Brother Fullerton for the powerful agency, "the Tract-mailing scheme," which has done so much good since it has been started. What merits besides particular notice is that this scheme has been sustained by spontaneous private help from the American members alone.

Doubtless with earnest harmonious union, love and will, thoughts invent and hearts execute. What is good and useful to and for humanity this union, love and will, is most luminously exemplified in you, O American Brothers! May, O may, we and all other Theosophists imitate your praiseworthy example!

It is with gratification indeed that I am able at last to say that there is truly some real prospect of success for the Theosophical movement and principles in Greece.

Scarcely a month has elapsed since the Constitution and Rules of a Radical Altruistic Society has been founded, started, and published in Athens.

The promoters are four Theosophists of the Ionian Branch, the Secretary of this Branch included. At this moment not less than 350 members are under its Banner, whereon are exhibited the words Unity—Fraternity—Liberty. The earnest, willing, enlightened, energetic workers are chosen and are instructed Theosophically. Social Altruism and Universal Brotherhood of humanity are the heart and soul of this Association bearing the name "Social Group", and a weekly paper, "*Society can and must be Radically Changed,*" is to be published shortly, and there is enough space left for articles in the French language. The editors shall feel extremely obliged for any articles in English, which they will gratefully translate into Greek and insert them in a prominent column of the paper, touching on Social, Theosophical, and Scientific questions of the day.

The entrance and monthly contributions of the members is *one franc* per month, each member having the right of a copy of the "Social Group" weekly free.

It is expected that before long a Theosophical Branch is to be established in Athens in union and co-operation with the aforesaid Society.

Brothers of Free America! The Fellows of the Theosophical Society of Greece wish you a continuation of your already glorious success, and join with you in cheering thrice—Long live—The Founders—Madam Blavatsky—Colonel Olcott, and William Q. Judge,—your meritorious and indefatigable General Secretary.

Yours forever devotedly and fraternally attached for the Truth and humanity.

*For the President—*

OTHO ALEXANDER,  
*Secretary.*

## LETTER FROM DE L'ORIENT ET L'OCCIDENT BRANCH.

PALAIS TIRANTY,

NICE, March 30, 1891.

*To the Theosophists of America from the  
French Branch of l'Orient et l'Occident.*

I have the greatest pleasure in greeting our dear Brother Theosophists of America in the name of the few faithful members who compose our little French Branch "de l'Orient et l'Occident."

We unite in sending them our true and most heartfelt good wishes, at the same time that we warmly congratulate them on the admirable manner in which they have organized Theosophy in America, and the earnestness with which they study it.

Unfortunately in France we meet with no encouragement, have never received any kind greetings or good wishes, and the French character does not seem well adapted for the study of such serious subjects. So that we must look for example from you and from our good Brothers in England who have the great advantage of the constant presence and encouragement of our revered and much beloved teacher, Madame H. P. Blavatsky. You also have another great advantage and blessing, which is the long continued and constant issue of such an excellent Journal as *The Path*, and the presence of its much honored and talented editor, Mr. W. Q. Judge, who is only second in importance to the President Founders of the movement. We always read *The Path* with the deepest interest and admiration.

Pray, dear Brothers of America, allow me to offer you the sincere congratulations and good wishes of the small French Branch of which I have the honor to be President.

MARIE CAITHNESS,

Duchesse de Pomar, F. T. S.

## LETTER FROM MADRID BRANCH.

[TRANSLATION.]

MADRID, SACOMETREZO 58-3<sup>o</sup>, March 22, '91,*Brothers:*

Knowing that you are going to meet at Boston we shall not lose the opportunity to send you, as we did when the Theosophical Congress of Chicago took place, the most sincere expressions of our fraternal feel-

ings and of our admiration for the wonderful result of your effort in behalf of our noble cause which is the cause of Humanity.

The Theosophical Society has been established only a year in Spain, the propagation commencing in January, 1890, and we have done all which our small means and short number have permitted us to do.

We have not forgotten our brothers in race of your continent, and we have forwarded to you our pamphlets in order that you can, as long as you are nearer to them, be able to diffuse the Theosophical principles among them, and we do not doubt that your efforts will prepare the future of the coming sub-race, and will propend that the Spanish-American population shall work on behalf of it, as you constitute the Theosophical focus in the American continent.

D. MONTOLIN, F. T. S.

José XIFFRE, F. T. S.

## AMERICAN BRANCHES: THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

PLACE.	NAME.	DATE OF CHARTER	PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.	ADDRESS.
St. Louis	Arjuna T. S.	1882	Wm. A. Kelsoe	Wm. F. Burrows	2012 Olive St.
New York	Aryan T. S.	1883	William Q. Judge	Charles Seale	P. O. Box 2659.
Chicago	Chicago T. S.	1884	Geo. E. Wright	Miss Pauline G. Kelly	278 Bissell St.
Malden	Malden T. S.	1885	Geo. D. Ayers	Frank S. Collins	97 Dexter St.
San Francisco	Golden Gate Lodge	1885	Dr. Jerome A. Anderson	Dr. Allen Griffiths	13 Mason St.
Los Angeles	Los Angeles T. S.	1885	Mrs. Eliz. A. Kingsbury	Miss Louise A. Off	Collado St., Station F.
Boston	Boston T. S.	1886	Arthur B. Griggs	Robert Crosbie	91 South St.
Cincinnati	Cincinnati T. S.	1886	Robert Hosea	Dr. Thos. M. Stewart	104 W. 8th St.
Chicago	Ramayana T. S.	1887	Dr. W. P. Phelon	Edwin J. Blood	619 W. Jackson St.
Minneapolis	Ishwara T. S.	1887	Dr. J. W. B. La Pierre	Mrs. Louise J. Manning	Northwestern Conservatory of Music.
Philadelphia	Krishna T. S.	1887	Alex. W. Goodrich	Stirling Wilson	1641 Race St.
St. Louis	Pranava T. S.	1887	Seth Wheaton	Wm. Throckmorton	500 N. Commercial St.
Omaha	Vedanta T. S.	1888	Dr. J. M. Borglum	Miss Jessie Emery	Care A. P. A., Union Pac. R. R. Co.
Grand Island, Neb	Nirvana T. S.	1888	L. D. Proper	Nathan Platt	
San Diego, Cal.	Point Loma Lodge	1888	Dr. John F. S. Gray	Dr. Thos. Docking	643 6th St.
Bridgeport, Conn	Varuna T. S.	1888	Dr. E. Kirchgessner	Miss E. L. Shannon	59 William St.
Cleveland	Dharma T. S.	1888	Wm. E. Gates	Mrs. Erma E. Gates	Room 5, 89 Euclid Av.
Decorah, Iowa	Isis Lodge	1888	Mrs. Anna M. Severson	Mrs. Mary O. Pierson	Box 413.
Milwaukee	Brahmana T. S.	1888	Mrs. Julia Ford	Mrs. Alice M. Wyman	421 Milwaukee St.
Brooklyn	Brooklyn T. S.	1889	Col. H. N. Hooper	Miss Lily A. Shaw	137 Macon St.
Santa Cruz, Cal.	Bandhu T. S.	1889	Dr. Wm. W. Gamble	Mrs. Lizzie A. Russell	498 Ocean St.
Washington, D.C.	Blavatsky T. S.	1889	Reavel Savage	J. Guilford White	711 14th St., N. W.
San Jose, Cal.	Excelsior T. S.	1889	Mrs. Agnes B. Willcox	Mrs. P. M. Gassett	351 N. 3d St.
San Diego, Cal.	Gautama T. S.	1889	Mrs. Anna L. Doolittle	Mrs. Frances Nellis	1055 5th St.
Kansas City	Kansas City T. S.	1889	Hon. Henry N. Ess	Chancy P. Fairman	1328 Grand Av.
Fort Wayne	Light T. S.	1889	Judge Edw. O'Rourke	Andrew A. Purman	
Oakland, Cal.	Aurora Lodge	1889	Miss Marie A. Walsh	Henry Bowman	630 9th St.
Tacoma, W. T.	Narada T. S.	1890	John H. Scotford	Mrs. Fannie A. Sheffield	1109 S. 4th St.
Stockton, Cal.	Stockton T. S.	1890	Frederic M. West	Mrs. Jennie Southworth	361 Miner Ave.

PLACE.	NAME.	DATE OF CHARTER	PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.	ADDRESS.
Gilroy, Cal.	Oriental Club.....	1890	H. D. Van Schaick.....	Mrs. Lydia F. Angney.	
Muskegon, Mich.	Muskegon T. S.....	1890	F. A. Nims.....	Miss Sarah E. Sherman	157 Peck St.
San Diego, Cal.	Upasana T. S.....	1890	Sidney Thomas .....	Abbott B. Clark.....	4th and Palm Sts.
Alameda, Cal.	Triangle T. S.....	1890	Mrs. C. McIntire.....	Mrs. Clara E. Story.....	2328 Clement Ave.
Sacramento, Cal.	Eureka T. S. ....	1890	Mrs. Eliza J. C. Gilbert.	Dr. John S. Cook.....	922 9th St.
Sioux City, Iowa	Dâna T. S.....	1890	Dr. Grant J. Ross.....	Miss B. Wakefield.....	805 9th St.
Lincoln, Neb....	Amrita T. S.....	1890	David A. Cline.....	Mrs. C. A. Bumstead..	1212 Rose St. South
Baltimore.....	Hermes Council T. S..	1890	Chas. F. Silliman.....	Wm. H. Numsen .....	18 Light St.
New Orleans.....	Vyasa T. S.....	1890	Dr. Jules A. Mathieu.	Dr. B. de Toledo .....	150 Canal St.
Kearney, Neb .	Lotus T. S .....	1890	Rice H. Eaton .....	Herman M. Draper.....	
Seattle, W. T.	Seattle T. S. No. I.	1890	Frank I. Blodgett.....	W. F. Richardson.....	Room 4, 616 Second St.
Jamestown, N. Y.	1st. T. S. of Jamestown	1890	Miss Julia S. Yates.....	Mrs. H. E. L. Fenton..	215 Crossman St.
Philadelphia.....	Die Deutsche Theosophische Gesellschaft..	1890	Geo. Falkenstein .....	Chas. Cloeren.....	1620 Randolph St.
Vicksburg, Miss.	Siddartha T. S.....	1890	James M. Gibson.....	James B. Thompson...	Bonelli Building.
Pittsburg .....	Vishnu T. S.....	1890	Wm. C. Temple.....	Alex. M. Gow.....	Lewis Block.
Boulder, Colo...	Keshava T. S.....	1890	Geo. S. Adams.....		
Portland, Oregon	Willamette T. S.....	1890	Phineas Haskell.....	Wallace Yates.....	193 6th St.
Memphis .....	Memphis T. S.....	1890	Dr. M. Samfield.....	Wm. H. Hotchkiss....	298 Main St.
Clinton, Iowa...	Indra T. S .....	1890	James H. Reed.....	Chas. E. Freeman. ....	227 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburg.....	Iron City T. S.....	1890	John W. Dunlap.....	Thos. T. Phillips.....	111 Wylie Ave.
Fort Wayne, Ind.	Annie Besant T. S.....	1891	Mrs. Julia M. Fisher.	Mrs. Dora P. Buchman	161 W. Washington St.
Toronto, Canada.	Toronto, T. S.....	1891	Albert E. S. Smythe..	A. H. Blackwood.....	291 College St.
Los Angeles, Cal.	Dhyana T. S .....	1891	Jean J. Fernand.....		
Hoquiam, W. T.	Gray's Harbor T. S....	1891			